

7.3

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Emergency Stabilization & Restoration*

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The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

Emergency stabilization is required to be conducted within one year of the containment date of the fire, and includes "planned actions that stabilize or prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, to minimize threats to life and property resulting from the effects of a fire, and to repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources." (620 DM 3.3E)

Burned area rehabilitation can be conducted within 3 years of the containment date of the fire. Burned area rehabilitation includes "efforts undertaken within three years of containment date of a wildland fire to repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover naturally to management approved conditions, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire." (620 DM 3.3E)

Restoration of burned areas is dependent on a variety of factors that are difficult to assess and predict. Consequently there are varying degrees of successful rehabilitation. The invasion of the site by nonnative species, typically cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and other annual plant species complicate the situation as these



invasive species can quickly dominate the site and potentially increase the probability of a repeat burn which can damage the reestablishment of desired plant species. Areas with sufficient precipitation tend to fare better than areas with low precipitation. Topographic factors such as aspect and elevation influence recovery as well with the key being the availability of moisture and exposure to climatic elements. Soils are also crucial to the reestablishment of vegetation. If the soils are lost by erosion or damaged by intense heat, recovery in these areas is further hampered.

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The BLM wants your input...

- When is it appropriate to consider using non-native vegetation in a stabilization or rehabilitation project?
- How are emergency closures after fire able to be best publicized and understood, and therefore complied with?
- What project success criteria should (or should not) be outlined in order to re-open rehabilitated areas?

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

Comments can also be mailed
 to:
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 comments:
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